

IN THE CLAIMS:

Complete listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A work flow system for circulating a digital document file to a plurality of clients through a network, comprising:

a transmission client for initially issuing a document file for circulation, further comprising:

a) a circulation transmission setup processing unit which sets a circulation information file including destination information to specify destination, order of circulation, and ~~report destination information to specify a report destination to which a transmission completion report and a disabled circulation report are sent~~proxy destination information, and

b) a transmission processing unit which sends said circulation information file and said document file to the next one of a plurality of circulation clients, which is preset so in said destination information; and

said plurality of circulation clients for sequentially circulating said document file, transmitted by said transmission client, each comprising:

a transmission processing unit which sends said circulation information file and said document file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients, which is preset so in said destination information, ~~in response to a verification of said document file,~~ and

~~a disabled circulation report processing unit to specify a report destination based on a report destination information when the transmission of a circulation information file terminates incorrectly and to send a disabled circulation report to the report destination,~~

wherein when the next one of plurality of circulation clients is incapable of circulation because the transmission of the circulation information file or the document file to the next one

of the plurality of circulation clients terminates incorrectly, ~~said transmission client or one of~~ said plurality of circulation clients, having sent said document file and said circulation information file to said next one of said plurality of circulation clients being incapable of circulation, conducts at least one of (1) ~~sending a disabled circulation report to the report destination specified by the disabled circulation report processing unit based on the report destination information included in said circulation information file,~~ (2) sending said document file and said circulation information file to other one of said plurality of circulation clients next to said next one of said plurality of circulation clients, and ~~(3)~~ (2) sending said document file and said circulation information file to a proxy client of said next one of said plurality of circulation clients so that the circulation of said circulation information file and said document file is continued regardless of said circulation client being incapable of conducting circulation.

2-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said circulation information file further includes report destination information to specify a report destination, and said one of circulation clients, having sent said document file and said circulation information file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients, sends ~~said transmission completion report, regardless of said document file, to said next one of said plurality of circulation clients~~ in accordance with said report destination information.

6. (Previously presented) The work flow system of claim 5, wherein said report destination is a server for controlling a circulation of said document file; said one of circulation clients, having sent said document file and said circulation information file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients, sends said transmission completion report to said server; and said server sends circulation state information in response to a request from one of said transmission client and said plurality of circulation clients in accordance with said transmission completion report.

7. (Currently amended) The work flow system of claim 6, wherein said circulation state information includes ~~a state to which one of said plurality of circulation clients~~information indicating that said document file for circulation is circulated to which one of said plurality of circulation clients, or ~~a state with~~information indicating that which one of said plurality of circulation clients is confirming said document file ~~is confirmed~~.

8. (Original) The work flow system of claim 5, wherein said transmission client or one of said plurality of circulation clients, having sent said document file and said circulation information file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients and having received said transmission completion report, deletes or makes it possible to delete said document file and said circulation information file from a memory portion.

9. (Currently amended) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said circulation information file includes storage location information of a storage destination after the circulation of said document file; and one of said plurality of circulation clients, to which said document file is circulated at last, stores said document file to said storage destination in said storage location information ~~in response to a approval operation of said document file~~.

10. (Previously presented) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said document file for circulation is created from an original document file stored in a predetermined storage; said circulation information file includes original information of a storage destination of said original document and storage location information of a storage destination after the circulation of said document file; and one of said plurality of circulation clients, to which said document file is circulated at last, obtains said original document file in response to an approval operation of said document file in accordance with said original information, and stores said original document to said storage destination of said storage location information.

11. (Original) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said one of plurality of circulation clients, having received said document file and circulation information file, adds history information including a verification result of said document file to said circulation information

file and sends said document file and circulation information file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients.

12. (Previously presented) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said circulation information file includes time limit information for circulation time limit of said document file; and said one of plurality of circulation clients, having received said document file and circulation information file, requests an approval operation of said document file when said circulation time limit of said time limit information is expired.

13. (Original) The work flow system of claim 1, said transmission client or one of said plurality of circulation clients, sending said document file and said circulation information file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients, encrypts said document file before sending said document file.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said transmission client or one of said plurality of circulation clients, having received said document file and said circulation information file, adds correction information, for making a correction on said document file, to said circulation information file and sends said document file and said circulation information file to the next one of said plurality circulation clients.

18. (Currently amended) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of circulation clients, to which said document file is circulated at last, sends circulation completion report to other ones of said plurality of circulation clients ~~in response to an approval operation of said document file.~~

19. (Previously presented) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein said transmission client or each of said plurality of circulation clients comprises:

an information processing unit which processes electronic information; and

a storage unit which stores a file which is readable with said information processing unit;

wherein said storage unit stores said document file or said circulation information file when said document file or said circulation information file is received.

20. (Previously presented) The work flow system of claim 19, wherein said transmission client or each of said plurality of circulation clients comprises a display unit which displays a transmission button and sends said document file and said circulation information file to the next one of said plurality of circulation clients, which is preset so in said circulation information file, so as to be stored in said storage unit of said next one of said plurality of circulation clients in response to an operation of said transmission button.

21-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) A computer readable recording medium in which software is recorded, a computer executing the software carries out the steps of:

receiving a circulation information file and a document to be circulated among a plurality of destinations in a predetermined order from one of the destinations and an originator of the circulation;

(1) determining a next destination of the document;

(2) determining if the next destination is capable of circulating the document to a successive destination by determining if transmission of the document to the next destination terminated correctly;

(3) carrying out at least one of the following steps, if it is determined that the next destination is incapable of circulation:

(3-1) sending the document to at least one of the successive destination ~~and a proxy of the next destination~~; and

(3-2) sending ~~a disabled circulation report to a report destination based on report destination information included in said circulation information file~~ the document

to a proxy of the next destination.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 45, wherein circulating information on the destinations and the predetermined order is attached to the document, and the next destination is determined in the step (1) in accordance with the attached circulating information.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 45, wherein the circulating information on the destinations and the predetermined order has been set by the originator.

48. (Currently amended) A computer readable recording medium in which software is recorded, a computer executing the software carries out the steps of:

(1) setting up circulation information of a document, the circulation information including an order of the circulation among a plurality of destinations;

(2) determining if a first one of the destinations to which the computer ~~is to send~~ sent the document is capable of circulating the document to a second one of the destinations by determining if transmission of the document to the first one of the destinations terminated correctly;

(3) sending, if it is determined that the first one of the destinations is incapable of circulation, the document and the circulation information to at least one of the second one of the destinations and a proxy of the first one of the destinations.

49. (New) The work flow system of claim 1, wherein the circulation information file further includes report destination information to specify a report destination, and each of said plurality of circulation clients further comprises a disabled circulation report processing unit to send a disabled circulation report to the report destination when the transmission of a circulation information file terminates incorrectly.

50. (New) The work flow system of claim 49. wherein when the next one of plurality of circulation clients is incapable of circulation because the transmission of the circulation information file or the document file to the next one of the plurality of circulation clients terminates incorrectly, one of said plurality of circulation clients, having sent said document file and said circulation information file to said next one of said plurality of circulation clients being incapable of circulation, sends the disabled circulation report to the report destination based on the report destination information included in said circulation information file.